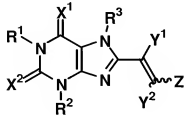
a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing formation of impurities in a pharmaceutical composition due to dimerization of a xanthine compound represented by formula (IA)

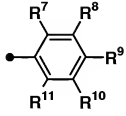


(IA)

(wherein Y^1 and Y^2 may be the same or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom, halogen or lower alkyl; Z represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl; R^1, R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or lower alkynyl; and X^1 and X^2 may be the same or different and each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~thereof, in~~ thereof, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is a solid formulation containing the xanthine compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises providing iron oxide in the solid formulation, and wherein formation of impurities due to dimerization of the xanthine compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is suppressed.

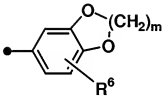
Claims 2-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein Y^1 and Y^2 each are a hydrogen atom; X^1 and X^2 each are an oxygen atom; R^1, R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; and Z is formula (II)



(II)

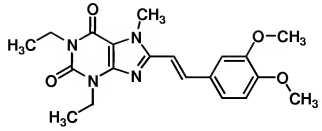
(wherein R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy) or formula (III)



(III)

(wherein R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, nitro or amino; and m represents an integer of 1 to 3).

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the xanthine compound is (E)-8-(3,4-dimethoxystyryl)-1,3-diethyl-7-methyl-3,7-dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione represented by formula (IB)



(IB)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid formulation consists of a core containing the xanthine compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a coated layer containing the iron oxide, ~~which~~ wherein said core bears said coated layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the coated layer contains at least one inorganic substance selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, zinc oxide, magnesium oxide, talc, magnesium silicate, synthetic aluminum silicate, magnesium carbonate, calcium sulfate, aluminum sulfate and barium sulfate.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the coated layer contains 0.01 to 70 parts by weight iron oxide per 100 parts by weight of the coated layer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the coated layer contains 0.01 to 70 part(s) by weight of the iron oxide per 100 parts by weight of the coated layer, and wherein the total amount of the inorganic substance and iron oxide is 0.01 to 90 part(s) by weight per 100 parts by weight of the coated layer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of ~~claims 1 or 6-11,~~ claims 1 and 6-11, wherein the solid formulation comprises 0.001 to 10,000 parts by weight of iron oxide per 100 parts by weight of the xanthine compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 13-33 (Cancelled).